

Goals of First Steps

First Steps works with Missouri families of children age birth to three by ensuring that coordinated services are provided as conveniently as possible. Participation in First Steps is voluntary and is intended to help families of children with disabilities:

- understand their child's special needs;
- obtain the support and help they need to deal with situations that could interfere with their child's growth and development; and
- provide the best conditions for their child's growth and development.

Our goal in the First Steps System is the same as yours: To ensure that families have the necessary supports, services, and resources that they need to raise healthy, happy, and successful children.

Families can contact their local First Steps System Point of Entry (SPOE) office for more information by calling toll free:

1-866-583-2392

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<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps/>

A vertical illustration on the right side of the page. At the top, a hand in a purple sleeve holds a pencil, drawing a line. Below, a clear fishbowl contains several green goldfish. The background is a light purple grid pattern.

Missouri
First
Steps

**Local
Interagency
Coordinating
Council**

Local Interagency Coordinating Councils

Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)

A Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) is recognized as a local voice for the First Steps Early Intervention System. An LICC may represent an individual county or a cluster of counties that have joined together to support First Steps at the local level. An LICC establishes a visible presence for First Steps, ensuring the needs of families of children with disabilities and developmental delays are met in their community.

A Local Interagency Coordinating Council provides leadership and quality assurance of the First Steps System within its own community. As community “pictures” and needs differ, so will each LICC.

The LICCs engage in a number of activities to support the Missouri First Steps System. These activities can include:



Key Components and Roles of an LICC

- Early intervention provider recruitment
- Council membership recruitment
- Procedural Safeguards information and services
- Public awareness and Child Find
- Transition for families after First Steps
- Assistance/collaboration/support of System Points of Entry (SPOEs)
- Parent participation in an LICC
- Pursue grant funding for projects
- Resource development and funding to meet local needs

It is important that the diverse voices of each community are reflected in the LICCs to ensure that the local communities are effectively engaging their resources to better serve all families with very young children – including those with disabilities. No one agency or entity can do this alone. The LICCs offer a variety of activities for you to become involved in depending upon

your availability, interests, and skills. We need to work together; this is the primary purpose of each LICC.

How Can I Get Involved?

Parents and professionals are an important part of the LICCs. Anyone who has a child with a disability or who works with children with special needs is invited to join an LICC. To contact your local LICC, visit:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps/LICCprintcopage.html>.

